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California Efficiency + Demand Management Council Oral Testimony to the Assembly Utilities & Energy Hearing Regarding SB 1026

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Chair Garcia and Members of the Assembly Utilities & Energy Committee:

My name is Joseph Desmond, Executive Director for the California Energy Efficiency and Demand Management Council (the Council), testifying in support of Senate Bill 1026.

The Council is a non-utility trade association representing more than 70 companies that design, implement, maintain and evaluate energy efficiency and demand response and employ thousands of people who play an important role in California's economy. Recent estimates put that number at more than 300,000 Californians employed in the industry we represent.

SB 1026 would continue California's energy efficiency and equity leadership by helping open the rental market to greater energy efficiency potential and improving tenants' access to energy efficiency information prior to initiating tenancy. The bill would require the California Energy Commission to create an energy efficiency disclosure form for rental units, to be provided before initiating tenancy, and establish an energy efficiency standard to further inform renters of anticipated costs as they make their housing choices.

California's rental market has historically been disadvantaged in achieving its significant energy efficiency potential, disproportionately impacting low-income renters across the state. This disparity often translates into leaving those with limited means to pay relatively higher energy bills than those with higher incomes. SB 1026 will help move the rental market segment towards greater levels of energy efficiency information and access. This will help improve cost transparency for prospective tenants and motivate further investment in energy efficiency, which is critical in furthering the State's carbon reduction goals and equity ambitions.

We applaud Senator Wieckowski and his team for recognizing this concern and advancing this important legislation. SB 1026 will go a long way toward realizing much of California's energy efficiency potential.

For these reasons, I encourage your "aye" vote. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak in support of SB 1026.